

We Claim:

1. A computer, comprising:
an internal device bay with an electrical connector disposed therein; and
a multi-functional device insertable in the internal device bay and
connectable to the electrical connector;

5 and wherein the multi-functional device has a first set of functions when
the multi-functional device is inserted into the internal device bay and connected to the
electrical connector and a second set of functions different from the first set of
functions when removed from the internal device bay.

2. A computer as defined in claim 1, wherein:
the first and second sets of functions are at least partially overlapping.

3. A computer as defined in claim 1, wherein:
the first set of functions comprises file storage.

4. A computer as defined in claim 3, wherein:
the multi-functional device comprises a multi-functional storage drive.

5. A computer as defined in claim 1, wherein:
the first set of functions comprises transferring content across the
electrical connector.

6. A computer as defined in claim 1, wherein:
the second set of functions comprises creating content.

7. A computer as defined in claim 6, wherein:
the multi-functional device comprises at least one of a still image
camera, a video camera, a video recorder, an audio recorder, a tablet computer, a
PDA and a digital camcorder.

8. A computer as defined in claim 1, wherein:
the second set of functions comprises playing content.

9. A computer as defined in claim 8, wherein:
the multi-functional device comprises at least one of a video player, a
DVD player, a television, an audio player, a CD player, an MP3 player, a tape player,
a radio, a tablet computer and a PDA.

10. A computer as defined in claim 1, wherein:
the multi-functional device is insertable fully into the internal device bay.

11. A computer as defined in claim 1, wherein:
when the multi-functional device is inserted into the internal device bay

and connected to the electrical connector, the multi-functional device has a side that is accessible externally of the computer in accordance with at least part of the first set of functions.

12. A multi-functional device that can be connected to a personal electronic system having an internal device bay and an electrical connector accessible within the internal device bay, comprising:

a body insertable at least partially into the internal device bay of the personal electronic system; and

a mating electrical connector adapted to connect to the electrical connector of the personal electronic system upon inserting the multi-functional device into the internal device bay;

and wherein:

the multi-functional device operates in a first functional capacity when inserted at least partially into the internal device bay and connected to the electrical connector; and

the multi-functional device operates in a second functional capacity different from the first functional capacity when removed from the personal electronic system.

13. A multi-functional device as defined in claim 12, wherein:
the personal electronic system comprises a computer.

14. A multi-functional device as defined in claim 12, wherein:
the multi-functional device operates in the first functional capacity under control of the personal electronic system.

15. A multi-functional device as defined in claim 14, wherein:
the multi-functional device exchanges content with the personal electronic system.

16. A multi-functional device as defined in claim 14, further comprising:
a file storage device.

17. A multi-functional device as defined in claim 12, wherein:
in the second functional capacity, the multi-functional device operates independently of the personal electronic system.

18. A multi-functional device as defined in claim 17, wherein:
the multi-functional device creates content.

19. A multi-functional device as defined in claim 17, wherein:
the multi-functional device plays content.
20. A multi-functional device as defined in claim 12, further comprising:
a storage media aperture in a front sidewall of the body through which a
storage media is inserted into and removed from the multi-functional device.
21. A multi-functional device as defined in claim 20, wherein:
the storage media aperture is accessible when the multi-functional
device is inserted into the internal device bay.
22. A multi-functional device as defined in claim 12, further comprising:
at least one of a storage device, a still image camera, a video camera, a
video player, a DVD player, a VCR, an audio player, an audio recorder, an MP3
player, a CD player, a tape player, a video recorder, a digital camcorder, a computer,
5 a personal digital assistant, a phone, a game player, a television and a radio.
23. A multi-functional device for use with a computer system having an
internal device bay, comprising:
a housing means adapted to fit at least partially in the internal device
bay of the computer system; and
5 means for electrical connection to the computer system when the multi-
functional device is at least partially in the internal device bay;
and wherein:
the operation of the multi-functional device is controllable by the
computer system when the multi-functional device is at least partially in the internal
10 device bay;
content is transferable between the multi-functional device and the
computer system across the electrical connection means when the multi-functional
device is at least partially in the internal device bay;
the content is playable by the computer system when the multi-functional
15 device is at least partially in the internal device bay; and
the content is playable by the multi-functional device when the multi-
functional device is not in the internal device bay.
24. A method for using a multi-functional device, comprising:
electrically connecting the multi-functional device to a personal
electronic system by inserting the multi-functional device at least partially into an
internal device bay of the personal electronic system;

- 5 operating the multi-functional device in a first functional capacity when
the multi-functional device is inserted in the internal device bay of the personal
electronic system;
- electrically disconnecting the device from the personal electronic system
by removing the device from the internal device bay of the personal electronic system;
- 10 and
- operating the multi-functional device in a second functional capacity
different from the first functional capacity when the multi-functional device is removed
from the personal electronic system.
25. A method as defined in claim 24, wherein:
 the personal electronic system comprises a computer system.
26. A method as defined in claim 24, wherein:
 the first functional capacity includes file storage;
 and further comprising:
 storing content in the multi-functional device when the multi-functional
- 5 device is inserted in the internal device bay of the personal electronic system.
27. A method as defined in claim 26, further comprising:
 inserting a removable storage media into the multi-functional device; and
 storing the content onto the removable storage media.
28. A method as defined in claim 24, wherein:
 the first functional capacity includes exchanging content between the
multi-functional device and the personal electronic system.
29. A method as defined in claim 24, wherein:
 the second functional capacity includes creating content independently
from the personal electronic system.
30. A method as defined in claim 29, wherein:
 the multi-functional device comprises at least one of a still image
camera, a video camera, a video recorder, an audio recorder, a tablet computer, a
PDA and a digital camcorder.
31. A method as defined in claim 24, wherein:
 the second functional capacity includes playing content independently
from the personal electronic system.
32. A method as defined in claim 31, wherein:
 the multi-functional device comprises at least one of a video player, a

DVD player, a television, an audio player, a CD player, an MP3 player, a tape player, a radio, a tablet computer and a PDA.

33. A computer, comprising:

an internal device bay with an electrical connector disposed therein; and
a multi-functional device insertable in the internal device bay and

connectable to the electrical connector;

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and wherein the multi-functional device has a first set of functions when the multi-functional device is inserted into the internal device bay and connected to the electrical connector and a second set of functions when removed from the internal device bay and completely disconnected and independent from the computer.

34. A multi-functional device that can be connected to a personal electronic system having an internal device bay and an electrical connector accessible within the internal device bay, comprising:

a body insertable at least partially into the internal device bay of the

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personal electronic system; and

a mating electrical connector adapted to connect to the electrical

connector of the personal electronic system upon inserting the multi-functional device into the internal device bay;

and wherein:

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the multi-functional device operates in a first functional capacity when inserted at least partially into the internal device bay and connected to the electrical connector; and

the multi-functional device operates in a second functional capacity

when removed from the internal device bay and completely disconnected and

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independent from the personal electronic system.